MAY 0 9 2007

# FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

745 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10151 Telephone: (212) 588-0800 Facsimile: (212) 588-0500 E-mail: Firm@flhlaw.com

#### FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

To:

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From:

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Date:

May 9, 2007

Re:

FLH Ref No.: 450100-02278

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PATENT 450100-02278

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicants** 

Gentaro Okayasu, et al.

Notice of Allowance Dated: 04/12/2007

Serial No.

09/492,044

For

FREE STORAGE SPACE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS

AND METHOD

Filed

January 26, 2000

Examiner

Hwang, Joon H.

Art Unit

2166

Confirmation No.

9377

745 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10151

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# RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed April 12, 2007. To the extent the Examiner's

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PATENT 450100-02278

Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP Attorneys for Applicants

William S. Frommer

Reg. No. 25,506 (212) 588-0800